

Message Text

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OREP DA ELAB
SUBJ: POSSIBLE CODEL HAWKINS

REF: STATE 138285

1. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME THE VISIT OF CODEL HAWKINS. WE WOULD BE ABLE TO ARRANGE AN INTERESTING PROGRAM RESPONSIVE TO THE CODEL'S SUBCOMMITTEE INTERESTS IN SO FAR AS DENMARK'S PROGRAMS IN THE LABOR MARKET AND SOCIAL WELFARE FIELDS RESPOND TO THEM.

2. FOR THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WE WOULD RECOMMEND MEETINGS WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND WITH THE DANISH EMPLOYER'S CONFEDERATION AS WELL AS WITH THE NATIONAL LABOR MARKET COUNCIL TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT INCENTIVE PLAN TO EMPLOYERS FOR THE HIRING OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTH AND NATIONAL MAN-POWER STRATEGY. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR THE HANDICAPPED (EG PROTECTED WORKSHOPS, EMPLOYMENT OF THE BLIND AS TELEPHONE OPERATORS), THERE ARE NOT MANY ECONOMICALLY DIS-ADVANTAGED PEOPLE IN DENMARK BECAUSE OF UNIVERSAL SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE. JOB TRAINING AND APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS ARE WELL DEVELOPED IN DENMARK AND MEETINGS TO LEARN ABOUT AND DISCUSS THEM CAN
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BE ARRANGED EASILY. THERE IS NO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATIONAL FACILITY IN DENMARK; THE PRIMARY SCHOOL WHICH DID EXIST CLOSED DOWN PERMANENTLY JUNE 14.

3. THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR STANDARDS WILL FIND THAT SOME TRADE PROBLEMS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC) AND WORLDWIDE HAVE HAD AN EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT IN DENMARK. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS WOULD BE THE EC'S FAILURE TO LAY A MINIMUM PRICE ON STEELTUBE WHILE DOING SO

ON OTHER STEEL PRODUCTS. IN THE ABSENCE OF AN INTEGRATED STEEL INDUSTRY IN DENMARK, THIS HAS MADE THE PRODUCTS OF DANISH PRODUCERS OF STEEL TUBE TOO EXPENSIVE WITH CONSEQUENT EMPLOYMENT EFFECTS. THERE IS NO AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURING OR ASSEMBLY PLANT IN DENMARK. THE WORLD CRISIS IN THE SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY HAS AFFECTED DENMARK AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES AND SOME GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO HOLD DOWN UNEMPLOYMENT IN THIS AND A FEW OTHER INDUSTRIES. PLANT SAFETY IS REGULATED BY LAW AND SHOP STEWARDS HAVE A SPECIAL ROLE UNDER THE LAW TO INSURE THAT REGULATIONS ARE OBSERVED. THE DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) HAS SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR SAFETY STEWARDS AND A MEETING IN THE LO ON THIS SUBJECT COULD BE ARRANGED. THE MINIMUM WAGE, AS IT EXISTS IN DENMARK (NOT AS LAW, REALLY, BUT RATHER AS A PART OF THE NATIONAL COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT), HAS BEEN CONCEIVED AS A WAGE LEVELLING DEVICE RATHER THAN A TOOL IN SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES.

4. SINCE THERE ARE NO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN DENMARK, WE WOULD SUGGEST VISITS TO THE CITY GOVERNMENTS OF COPENHAGEN AND ALBERTSLUND TO LEARN ABOUT JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND PROGRAMS TO DEAL WITH IT. THERE IS SOME VANDALISM AND VIOLENCE, BUT ITS EXTENT IS SO LIMITED THAT PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM THE US COMMUNITY FREELY USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES ALONE AT NIGHT IN COPENHAGEN WITHOUT DANGER. AS PART OF THE GENERAL SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAM THERE ARE RENTAL/SUBSIDY PROGRAMS GEARED TO ACTUAL INCOME, BUT THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC PROGRAMS FOR LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS AND THERE ARE NO POVERTY LAWS AS SUCH. THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION MINISTRIES WOULD BE ABLE TO DISCUSS

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THE PROGRAMS WHICH DO EXIST FOR RETARDED OR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND THE SPECIAL SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE BEEN CREATED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THESE STUDENTS. CITY GOVERNMENTS, WHICH ADMINISTER THE EXTENSIVE SOCIAL WELFARE PAYMENT SYSTEM AND THE HOSPITALS, WOULD BE THE PLACES TO SEEK EXPLANATIONS ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WELFARE PROGRAMS AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SOCIALIZED MEDICINE PROGRAM.

5. THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION SYSTEM IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND WITH THOSE IN CHARGE OF ADMINISTERING THE UNEMPLOYMENT FUNDS IN THE UNIONS, WHERE MANAGEMENT OF THIS ACTIVITY IS CENTERED. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OR SOCIAL WELFARE IS HANDLED BY THE CITY GOVERNMENTS (KOMMUNES) AND A VISIT TO ONE OF THESE WOULD BE INFORMATIVE. WE COULD ALSO ARRANGE A DISCUSSION SESSION WITH A PROMINENT SOCIAL WELFARE CONSULTANT OR WITH THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH. THERE ARE NO PROGRAMS LINKING CASH AID AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.

6. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS MADE ABOVE COULD BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE OTHER ASPECTS OF DANISH LABOR MARKET POLICIES. CODEL HAWKINS COULD GAIN INSIGHT INTO DENMARK'S DIFFICULTIES IN COPING WITH ITS HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT CAUSED BY THE ECONOMIC RECESSION AND COMPLICATED BY A LARGE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

DEFICIT. IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED, HOWEVER, THAT DENMARK IS A SMALL COUNTRY WITH A HOMOGENEOUS POPULATION OF ONLY ABOUT 5 MILLION PEOPLE WITH A STRONG SENSE OF SOLIDARITY STRENGTHENED BY THEIR USE OF A RELATIVELY UNKNOWN LANGUAGE. EVERY PART OF THE COUNTRY CAN BE REACHED FROM ANY OTHER IN A FEW HOURS, IF NOT BY CAR THEN BY PLANE. WE ARE DOUBTFUL, THEREFORE, THAT WHAT IS DONE TO MEET PECULIAR DANISH PROBLEMS COULD HAVE MUCH APPLICABILITY IN THE LARGER UNITED STATES CITIES. NEVERTHELESS, WHAT THE DANES ARE DOING IS INTERESTING AND SOMETIMES IMAGINATIVE, AND IT COULD WELL BE WORTH CODEL HAWKINS TIME TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IT.

7. ESTIMATED COSTS FOR LIMOUSINE (6 PASSENGER) RENTAL WITH CHAUFFER IS DANISH KRONER (DK) 150 PER HOUR; RENTAL OF AN ORDINARY CAR IS DK 180 PER DAY, PLUS DK 0.80 PER KILOMETER DRIVEN OVER 100 KILOMETERS, PLUS REPLACEMENT OF GASOLINE CONSUMED; A 40-PASSENGER BUS
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WITH CHAUFFEUR COSTS DK 145 PER HOUR. DEPENDING ON WHICH ONE IS CHOSEN, FIRST CLASS HOTELS COST BETWEEN DK 270 AND 350 FOR A SINGLE AND BETWEEN 350 AND 550 FOR A DOUBLE, BREAKFAST EXTRA. CUREENTLY, \$1.00 IS EQUAL TO APPROXIMATELY DK 5.65.
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